THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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MOBILE

Well, it looks as though spring has come a little early this year. The measuring stick that we measure spring with, is the mobile activity. K5ASB Jim, is a newcomer with a BC696. K5EMO Marsh, is mobiling around the South side.

The March transmitter hunt was a rough one being hid under a bridge on the Salado Creek where it crosses E. Commerce. It seems you coudn't get to it with an MGA, or even some of the larger cars. A bulldozer would have helped. Theo W5OZQ, came in first, with W5VPQ second, and W5-DKF Cole third.

W5LEM Les is looking for some hints to get the noise out of his mobile receiver.

There won't be a transmitter hunt the first Sunday in April, for everyone will be at Hondo helping in the Sport Car Races.

Gene W5EJT

NATIONAL ARRL CONVENTION

The 11 th National ARRL Convention is to be held in Galveston June 19-20-21. If you are going to attend the convention, you had better send in your reservation early. It seems as though the prices for a convention sure have gone up since we had a convention here in San Antonio. Convention headquarters is to be in The Moody Convention Center, and they seem to have a lot of things lined up for everyone to participate in.

RACES IS LEGAL

Gentlemen, there has been a lot of talk lately relative to the local RACES program. If you care to take the time to read the regulations relative to this program, they are located in the Radio Amateurs License Manual pages 74 to 78. If after reading these regulations carefully, you have any questions relative to this subect, contact Mr. Grant Moore W5DRO at the Bexar County Civil Defense Disaster Relief office. The phone number is CApitol 4-9211.

To summarize briefly I have looked into the matter of RACES operation very thoroughly and would like to go on record as saying this program is operating according to the rules set down by the FCDA and FCC. The local group is doing a very excellent job and should be given the complete backing and support of the Hams in this area.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 1930 in the Bexar County Court House, on the second floor. Drills are held from 1930 to 2130 each Tuesday and Thursday for the purpose of training personnel and checking out equipment.

Mr. Grant Moore and Mr. J. C. Nickens gave a very interesting review of the local RACES program at the March 6th meeting of the San Antonio Radio Club.

73's

Ray W5EDZ

VHF AND UP

The possibility of working New Zealand and Australia this year on 50 mc. still looks good. On 26 February, K5GEH heard ZL1MB on phone at 1700 CST, though he was very weak. Last year, W5VY worked all ZL call areas in April. No other sigs from the far Pacific have been heard through 22 March.

On 1 March, K5GEH worked HC1FS, Quito, at about 0900. W4RMU and W4ZXI were heard on CW by backscatter to the south for over an hour.

March 4th brought one of the first transequatorial openings of the season. K5GEH heard LU3EX on CW at 2000 and worked HC1FS, as did K5-HVC. K5OOJ was heard calling FS. 18 March brought in some LU's by TE and XE1PA by Es. K5HVC heard what sounded like some JA stations on 50.4 mc. and heard KH6UK from 1830-1845.

Things perked up on 19 March and K5HVC worken LU4DFN, LU6DBE, LU3DOH, and heard HC1FS. K5-GEH worked LU9MA and LU4DFN. All were on phone and at about 2000 CST. The TE openings are about a month later this year than the last two seasons.

Local rag-chewers and mobile stations can help the interference problem by remembering that 6 meters does extend up past 50.1 mc. There is no need to intentionally jam someone trying to contact DX stations via propagation modes which we don't care to understand. Part One of the Amateur's Code says, "The Amateur is Gentlemanly." Part Three says, "The Amateur is Progressive. He keeps his station abreast of science . . . His operating practice is clean and regular." Let's all adhere to these codes. With 4 million cycles available on Six, we ought to be able to plank down our 6 thousand cycles some place without being on top of one of our friends.

W5FMG and W5LFM continued to monitor the satellite frequencies. They tracked Vanguard II, "the weather eye in the sky," via the 10 miliwatt beacon on what they read as 107.992 mc., with some passes lasting as long as 17 minutes.

The weather readout frequency appears to have been 108.032 mc. as 30 seconds of the one minute playback were heard. This frequency was silent after 8 March, the beacon going out several days later as the batteries were exhausted.

The important receiving factors are a low-nose converter and the ability to spot frequency to within several kc. A good antenna on 108 mc. helps but is not essential as Vanguard II was copied many times by W5LFM using a 6 or 15 meter Yagi. It's most important to know where you are in frequency, and the Doppler shift doesn't help the hide and seek problem. A VOR (VHF Omni--Range) station in Lavernia on 108.400 mc helps tremendously for those that have bandspread as the receiver dial can be

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calibrated. It's rare DX indeed to copy a satellite! Good luck.

Cal Graf, W5LFM
DI 4-5032

GUTTER DOPE

W5LVE Johnny, is off to Okie City again to get some smart.

Wedding bells will soon be ringing for K5HQR.

Ditto for K5DMK.

Welcome to The Alamo City, K5STO. Aubrey is with The Associated Press.

K5HES was seen visiting out at the sport and boat show.

Six meters has a new XYL, K5PDI Mary.

Have you seen any of the snazzy red jackets some of the Hams have been sporting around here lately?

Quite a few of the mobiles helped the Sports Car Club with a road ralley the week end of March 22. Some of those participating were W5EJT, W5EDZ, W5DKF, W5FND, W5FAR, W5VPQ, W5LUU, W5KLW, W5-OZQ, K9GIR, W5TSE, K5PDI, K5OPT.

Don't forget the races at Hondo the first week-end in April. We will be furnishing the communications for that deal also. For more info. call Gene DI 2-2225.

Pierre

Most of us are broad-minded enough to admit there are two sides to every question—our side, and the side that no intelligent informed, sane and self-respecting citizen could possibly hold.

The conscientious airplane pilot addressed his passengers over the intercom, telling them he had lost his way. He explained that the radar was not working, the radio beam could not be picked up, and the radio compass was broken.

"But," he added encouragingly, "you will be glad to know that we're making very good time."

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Mobile time is coming up soon. We have a very good stock of new and used Mobile equipment for you to pick from.

Marion W5DBN Don K5CYJ

For Sale

Viking II W/VFO, $180.; HQ-140 W/speaker $160. Central Elec. 10-A W/deluxe 458 VFO & QT 1 $110.; 75 meter mobile antenna W/ mount $12.50. Complete home-brewed 2 meter rig $75.

John D. Moore W5UUM, Phone DI 2-8792
4706 Chedder Dr.

A baby sardine under the North Pole saw the Nautilus go by and went swimming in terror to his mother.

"Don't be frightened, darling," she reassured him, "it's only a can full of people."

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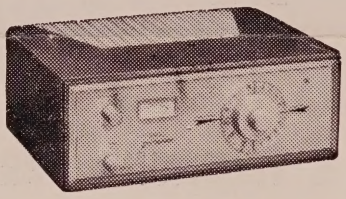

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